

February 21, 2007

The Honorable Allyson Schwartz
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

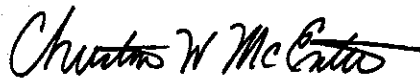
Dear Ms. Schwartz:

We the undersigned members of the building industry congratulate you for your introduction of H.R. 539, the *Buildings for the 21st Century Act*. Buildings are major consumers of energy in our country and they generally have a lifespan that reaches 75 years. All of our organizations strongly support increases in building energy efficiency. In many cases, building to a higher standard of efficiency requires greater capital costs during construction. While these costs will be paid back over the lifetime of the structure, they can serve as a financial impediment to building sustainably today.

The Commercial Building Tax Deduction incorporated into the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided a good first step in overcoming that impediment. Unfortunately, it will sunset at the end of this Congress. It is also not as robust a deduction as most of us lobbied for in the past Congress.

Your legislation would fix both of these problems by extending the deduction until 2013 and deepening it from \$1.80 to \$2.25 per square foot. We commend you for taking the leadership on these complex issues that are closely entwined with our Nation's energy and environmental future. We support your efforts. We support your bill. And we look forward to working with you to getting it signed into law.

Sincerely yours,



Christine McEntee
Executive Vice President/CEO
The American Institute of Architects



Nancy C. Somerville
Executive Vice President/CEO
American Society of Landscape Architects



Carin Nersesian
Director, Legislative Affairs
Associated Builders and Contractors



R. Craig Silvertooth
Director of Federal Affairs
National Roofing Contractors Association



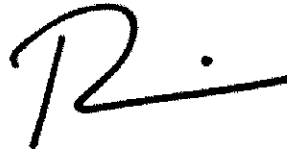
Jack Muma
President
Construction Owners Association of America



Heidi Blumenthal
Director, Congressional Relations
The Associated General Contractors



Lawrence A. Jacobson
Executive Director
National Society of Professional Engineers



S. Richard Fedrizzi
President, CEO and Founding Chair
U.S. Green Building Council



Henry Chamberlain
President & Chief Operating Officer
BOMA International



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Technology for a Better Environment

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Terry E. Townsend, P. E.

President

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February 8, 2007

The Honorable Allyson Schwartz
United States House of Representatives
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz:

We commend you for your introduction of H.R. 539, the *Buildings for the 21st Century Act*. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, buildings consume about one-third of America's energy. Therefore, the efficient use of energy in buildings is critical to maintaining the planet's health and the sustainability of civilization. In many cases, building owners need financial incentives to consider implementing energy efficient technologies. Occasionally, building to for higher performance slightly increases capital costs during construction. While these costs can be paid back quickly through reduced energy bills, they can serve as a financial impediment to building sustainably today.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), founded in 1894, is an international organization of 50,000 persons. ASHRAE fulfills its mission of advancing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education. In recognition of the impact energy use by buildings has on the economy and the environment, since 1975, ASHRAE has developed and maintained the premier energy standard for commercial buildings (ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1 and ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.2).

The Commercial Building Tax Deduction incorporated into the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided a good first step to encourage adoption of energy efficient technologies and designs. Unfortunately, as adopted this tax incentive only applied only to buildings placed in service during calendar years 2006 and 2007. This fall, the Congress extended the deduction through 2008. Such piecemeal extensions of the provision are counterproductive because the planning, design, and construction cycle for substantial buildings take longer than two years. Owners need to be able to count on the availability of these tax benefits in their planning, which recognizes the possibility of delays, too.

Your legislation addresses these issues by extending the deduction until 2013 and deepening it from \$1.80 to \$2.25 per square foot. We commend you for taking the leadership on these complex issues that are closely entwined with our Nation's energy and environmental future. ASHRAE members and staff look forward to continued work with Congress, Federal agencies, and the American people in

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

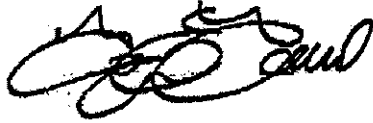
Rep. Allison Schwartz

HR 539

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improving built environment energy efficiency. If you, or your staff, have any questions or would desire more information, please contact Ryan Colker, Government Affairs Representative at 202/833-1830 or rcolker@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Townsend", written in a cursive style.

Terry E. Townsend
President

TET/rmc



EVAN R. GADDIS

President and Chief Executive Officer

February 5, 2007

The Honorable Allyson Schwartz
United States House of Representatives
423 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz:

I am writing to express our sincere appreciation and support for sponsoring H.R. 539, *Buildings for the 21st Century Act*.

The commercial building tax deduction is a critical tool in assisting building owners to install today's energy efficient products and systems, both for new construction and for renovation of existing buildings. Buildings consume 22-percent of the nation's electricity, and making buildings more energy efficient will reduce that consumption with attendant environmental benefits. NEMA actively supported this provision (Section 1331) in the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*.

NEMA members manufacture the electrical systems and products used in commercial buildings including lighting, motors, transformers, controls, electrical distribution products, and HVAC components. As an association representing companies firmly engaged in the energy efficiency business, I applaud your leadership to extend this important tax provision through 2013 and to increase the deduction amount to \$2.25 per square foot.

NEMA is ready and committed to working with you to enact H.R. 539.

Sincerely yours,



Evan Gaddis

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Manufacturers Association**
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